

Center for Health Equity

Intern and Practicum Projects

COMMUNICATIONS AT CHE — In order to effectively convey the work and message of the Center for Health Equity into the community, we need to develop our communications capacity. The intern will help evaluate, plan and execute various methods of communication, including:

- Update website to make it more interactive with photos, links, partners/collaborators, Louisville health disparities data, etc.
- Work with Kathy Harrison to develop a communications strategy on health equity messaging
- Brochure for CHE with program summaries, contact info, etc.
- Develop a centralized, open access database with all CHE contacts.

CORNER STORE INITIATIVE — How do you turn a food desert into an oasis? One way is by increasing the accessibility and availability of healthy food. In partnership with the YMCA, we have been working with neighborhood corner stores on selling fresh fruits and vegetables (some of which is **locally grown**). A group of students at Meyzeek Middle School named the initiative “Healthy in a Hurry.” The goal is to expand to other stores throughout the city because everyone deserves access to fresh, affordable produce.

- Work with corner store owners on ordering, stocking, maintaining and selling produce
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the initiative at helping people eat healthier
- Hold focus groups to learn more about what influences people to buy when in the Healthy in a Hurry story – what makes people eat fresh food vs. junk food?

FOOD JUSTICE — In West Louisville, there is **one supermarket** per **25,000 residents**, while the rest of the city has **one** per **12,500**. Such “food deserts” are areas overserved by fast-food and convenience stores, and underserved by supermarkets and fresh food. The Center has taken an active role in addressing this problem by working with partner organizations on a **Food in Neighborhoods** committee to support farmers markets, community gardens, local food entrepreneurs, and both policy and economic development strategies that help increase access to healthy food for all.

- Evaluate
- Outreach to *Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities* neighborhood residents
- Survey/data collection on food purchasing, cooking methods, kitchen capacity, barriers to eating healthy, frequency of farmers markets, supermarkets and corner stores, etc.

HEALTH EQUITY DIALOGUES — Did you know that folks in some Louisville neighborhoods live on average 10 years less than people across town? Why is it that where we live, work, and play determines how healthy we are and how long we'll live? These are some of the questions raised when we discuss health equity with community groups, health department staff, and other city agencies. This process incorporates the PBS documentary *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* We also train facilitators from the community and supply them with a custom-made guide to assist them in leading these important dialogues.

- Develop outreach and recruitment materials for communities, organizations and churches that wish to hold dialogues.
- Develop outreach and recruitment materials for individuals who wish to be facilitators
- Connecting newly trained facilitators with dialogues
- Organizing calendar for dialogues
- Determining best way to work with other Metro agencies to hold these dialogues
- Organize handout materials including evaluation
- Determine outcomes and objectives for community and Metro Dialogues

LOUISVILLE HEALTH EQUITY REPORT CARD – Drawing from national models, the intern will create a Health Equity Report Card for Louisville. This report card will assess whether policies and programs advance a shared agenda of fairness, spread burdens fairly and help address historic patterns of institutional bias and discrimination. To accomplish this, the intern will need to:

- Work with state, university and community resources to determine the epidemiology of disease burden among racial/ethnic minorities and economically disadvantaged populations in targeted rural and urban areas by using primary and secondary data sources based upon selected health outcomes and health determinant indicators (i.e., environment/infrastructure, social/human development, economics and governance).
- The outcome of this work will be the development of a comprehensive database of community health indices that focuses on racial and ethnic disparities in health status.

Staff from the Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness and the KY Department for Public Health, as well as other Collaborative members will work with the intern to determine appropriate tools, indicators, resources, research methods and reporting mechanisms that could be used at the state and local levels. As part of this work, the intern will identify existing gaps in health disparity data collection.

POLICY RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY – The intern will work with collaborative partners to enhance their ability to address health disparities issues through local and state policy advocacy by providing workshops, technical assistance and up-dated information related to state and local policy proposals. An analysis of data collected from several data sources and community dialogues conducted in selected communities will be used to evaluate current public policy, as well as propose new policy actions.

- Gain a broad understanding of health and social policy as it relates to health equity through dialogues with local experts from government agencies, advocacy groups and non-profit organizations, as well as a focused literature review.
- Develop and implement policy advocacy workshops CHE partners.
- Analyze current policy initiatives in Louisville and Kentucky to develop an action plan, “health equity response,” which utilizes diverse policy tools geared towards creating health equity
- Determine effective strategies for evaluating policy processes.
- Learn the ENACT and THRIVE tool and determine how to use these with community members.
 - **ENACT** is a concrete menu of strategies designed to help you improve nutrition and activity environments on a local level. These strategies have been organized into seven environments that were carefully selected for their importance in individual and community health. Each ENACT strategy presents useful information based on current research and practice and includes model policies and programs, hands-on tools, articles and other publications, and resources. The strategies are structured to be interactive so that implementation can become a reality
 - **THRIVE** is a tool to help people understand and prioritize the factors within their own communities that can help improve health and safety. The tool identifies key factors and allows a user to rate how important that factor might be in the community. It also provides information about how each factor is related to health outcomes and some direction about what to do to address the factor and where to go for more information.

OTHER

- Men’s Health Initiative
- Create a graph of CHE work, work area
- Health impact assessments for future use
 - *Health impact assessment (HIA)* is commonly defined as “a combination of procedures, methods, and tools by which a policy, program, or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population”

- Pull the research and language for individual, community and organizational empowerment; social capital, human capital, community engagement, community-based participatory research and determine how this applies to our projects, mission etc. Prepare a short workshop for staff about how we might use these theories to develop, implement and evaluate our projects.
- Connect with and/or develop a cadre of researchers who could work with us on programs and projects at CHE including providing guidance and mentoring for applying for and implementing research grants.

CONTACT THE CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY AT:

502-574-6616

OR

HEALTHEQUITY@LOUISVILLEKY.GOV